

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the aforementioned reasons, claims 1, 2, and 4 of the present invention are patentable over Kresse. Based on the foregoing, the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kresse in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,220,987 to Robichaux et al. ("Robichaux"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 3, which has been amended to be in independent form and which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the aforementioned reasons, claim 10 of the present invention is patentable over Kresse in view of Robichaux. Based on the foregoing, the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.


CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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